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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/719,872	11/21/2003	Atsushi Hoshiai	230980-0252	3047
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FOLEY & LARDNER 2029 CENTURY PARK EAST SUITE 3500 LOS ANGELES, CA 90067			EXAMINER QIN, JIANCHUN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2837	

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/719,872

Applicant(s)

HOSHIAI ET AL.

Examiner

Jianchun Qin

Art Unit

2837

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11/21/033 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/15/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Miyashita et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 20030103422).

With respect to claim 1:

Miyashita et al. disclose an electronic musical instrument for playing back an audio phrase (the Abstract), comprising: tempo setting means for setting a playback tempo of the audio phrase (Figs. 13 and 14; sections 0057-0059); first readout position means for generating first audio phrase readout positions in conformance with a playback tempo set by the tempo setting means (sections 0100 and 0101); a readout position change operator that is operable by a performer to indicate a desired amount of readout position change (sections 0054, 0058, 0059, 0062 and 0077); second readout position means for generating second audio phrase readout positions in conformance with operation of the operator by the performer (sections 0063-0065, 0068 and 0104);

Art Unit: 2837

and signal processing means for playing back said audio phrase in accordance with said second audio phrase readout positions when the operator is being operated, and for playing back said audio phrase in accordance with said first audio phrase readout positions when the operator is not being operated (Fig. 1, #7; Figs. 5-7; section 0126).

With respect to claims 2 and 3:

The teaching of Miyashita et al. further includes: the operator comprises a pressure sensitive surface and is operated by applying pressure to a location on the flat structure and moving the location (sections 0078-0080); the operator comprises switching means for indicating termination of operation of the operator (section 0069).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4-9 and 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyashita et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 20030103422) in view of Takahashi (U.S. Pub. No. 20020100359).

With respect to claim 4:

Miyashita et al. teach the instrument that includes the subject matter discussed above.

Miyashita et al. do not mention expressly: the audio phrase is stored as waveform data.

Takahashi discloses an apparatus and method for processing audio waveform data that constitute musical performance data string (the Abstract), wherein said waveform data are stored in a waveform memory (section 0031).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the teaching of Takahashi in the invention of Miyashita et al. in order to provide a data format that is capable of constituting a musical performance data string in association with audio data representing audio phrases which may be easily edited and is convenient for use in an automatic musical performance apparatus (Takahashi, sections 0005 and 0007).

With respect to claim 5:

Miyashita et al. further disclose an electronic musical instrument, comprising: a storage area storing audio data (section 0031); a tempo setting operator for receiving user input specifying a playback tempo for the audio data (Figs. 13 and 14; sections 0057-0059); a readout position change operator that is operable by a user to indicate a desired amount of audio data readout position change (sections 0054, 0058, 0059, 0062 and 0077); and a computer readable medium storing programming instructions for causing the instrument to perform processing (section 0084) comprising: generating first audio data readout positions in accordance with a playback tempo set by the tempo setting operator (sections 0100 and 0101); when the readout position change operator is being operated, generating second waveform data readout positions in accordance

Art Unit: 2837

with operation of the readout position change operator and playing back said audio phrase in accordance with said second waveform data readout positions (sections 0063-0065, 0068 and 0104); and when the readout position change operator is not being operated, playing back said audio phrase in accordance with said first waveform data readout positions (sections 0100, 0101, 0126 and Figs. 5-7).

Miyashita et al. do not mention expressly: said audio data is audio waveform data stored in a waveform memory.

Takahashi discloses an apparatus and method for processing audio waveform data that constitute musical performance data string (the Abstract), wherein said waveform data are stored in a waveform memory (section 0031).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the teaching of Takahashi in the invention of Miyashita et al. in order to provide a data format that is capable of constituting a musical performance data string in association with audio data representing audio phrases which may be easily edited and is convenient for use in an automatic musical performance apparatus (Takahashi, sections 0005 and 0007).

With respect to claim 13:

Miyashita et al. further teaches a method for producing an audio signal from audio source data, comprising: generating first audio data readout positions for producing said audio signal at a specified playback tempo (sections 0054, 0058, 0059, 0062 and 0077); upon detecting operation of a readout position change operator, generating second audio data readout positions in accordance with operation of the

Art Unit: 2837

readout position change operator and producing said audio signal from the source data in accordance with said second audio data readout positions (sections 0054, 0058, 0059, 0063-0065, 0068, 0077 and 0104); and when the readout position change operator is not being operated, producing said audio signal from the source data using said first audio data readout positions (sections 0100, 0101 and 0126).

Miyashita et al. do not mention: said audio source data is audio waveform data.

Takahashi discloses an apparatus and method for producing an audio signal from audio waveform data, wherein said waveform data are stored in a waveform memory (the Abstract and section 0031).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the teaching of Takahashi in the invention of Miyashita et al. in order to facilitate the generation of an audio signal by providing a data source of waveform type that is capable of constituting a musical performance data string in association with audio data representing audio phrases which may be easily edited and is convenient for use in an automatic musical performance apparatus (Takahashi, sections 0005 and 0007).

With respect to claims 6-9 and 14-17:

The teaching of Miyashita et al. further includes: upon termination of operation of the readout position change operator, playback of the waveform data returns to synchronization with the specified playback tempo at a readout position that would be the current readout position had the readout position change operator not been operated (sections 0053, 0082 and 0126); the readout position change operator

Art Unit: 2837

comprises a pressure sensitive surface, wherein operation of the readout position change operator is indicated by the application of at least a predetermined amount of pressure to the surface, and wherein an amount of readout position change is indicated by an amount of angular movement of a location of said pressure on the surface with respect to a reference point (sections 0078-0080); angular movement in a first direction indicates forward movement of the second readout positions with respect to the first readout positions, and angular movement in a second direction indicates backward movement of the second readout positions with respect to the first readout positions (sections 0058 and 0059); angular movement by a predetermined amount indicates a readout position change corresponding to a predetermined unit of musical time of the waveform data (section 0075).

5. Claims 10-12 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyashita et al. in view of Takahashi, as applied to claims 5 and 13 above, and further in view of Capps et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5074182).

Miyashita et al. and Takahashi teach the instrument that includes the subject matter discussed above.

The combination of Miyashita and Takahashi does not mention expressly: regarding claim 10, the readout position change operator comprises a bender lever, wherein an amount of readout position change is indicated by an amount of movement of the lever in either a first direction or a second direction opposite said first direction; regarding claim 11, movement of the lever in the first direction indicates forward movement of the second readout positions with respect to the first readout positions,

Art Unit: 2837

and movement of the lever in the second direction indicates backward movement of the second readout positions with respect to the first readout positions; regarding claim 12, termination of use of the bender lever is indicated by movement of the lever in a third direction different from the first and second directions.

Capps et al. disclose an electronic musical instrument having an operator for operating the performance of the instrument (the Abstract), comprising: a bender lever (col. 2, lines 38-49), wherein a sequence of distinct signals for controlling the operation of the instrument is indicated by an amount of movement of the lever in either a first direction or a second direction opposite said first direction (col. 2, lines 38-49); the movement of the lever in the two opposite directions indicates various distinct signals corresponding to different starting points of the operation of the instrument (col. 2, lines 38-49; col. 4, lines 45-58); and termination of use of the bender lever is indicated by movement of the lever in a third direction different from the first and second directions (col. 2, lines 38-49; col. 4, lines 45-58).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the teaching of Capps et al. in the invention of Miyashita et al. in order to provide a multi-function actuator of "bender" type (as in a real guitar) to give precisional control of the operational parameters to said musical instrument (Capps et al., col. 2, lines 38-49).

Prior Art Citations

Art Unit: 2837

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

1) Reinhold et al. (U. S. Pat. No. 6483109) is entitled "Parameter selecting technique for use in music performance apparatus".

Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jianchun Qin whose telephone number is (571) 272-5981. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Martin can be reached on (571) 272-2107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Jianchun Qin
Examiner
Art Unit 2837

Application/Control Number: 10/719,872

Page 10

Art Unit: 2837

JQ 
July 22, 2005


KIMBERLY LOCKETT
PRIMARY EXAMINER